



L. the M. Hall, Esq.
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LYNTON
URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1961.

Town Hall,
LYNTON,
North Devon.

Tel: Nos:
Lynton 3288.
Lynton 2204.

LYNTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To: The Chairman and Members of
the Lynton Urban District Council.

Mrs. Slater, Mrs. Blackhurst and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith my ANNUAL REPORT for the year ended 31st December 1961.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. N.P.Nightingale, M.R.C.S.
L.R.C.P.

"Kneeshworth", Lee Road, LYNTON.
Private Tel: No: 2204.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mr. T.J.Loveless, A.I.A.S.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Town Hall, LYNTON,
Tel: No: Lynton 3288.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Area in Acres..... | 7,628. |
| Population (reg:Gen: Mid-year Estimate.... | 1,710. |
| Number of inhabited houses..... | 594. |
| Rateable Value..... | £27,962. |
| Sum represented by 1d. Rate..... | £116.10.2. |

VITAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Live Births: Legitimate: Males..10. | Females 5.....15. |
| Illegitimate: Males.. 1. | Females 1..... 2. |
| Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population..... | 9.94 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births..... | 11.76 |
| Still births: Legitimate..... | nil. |
| Illegitimate..... | nil. |
| Total Live and Still births..... | 17 |
| Infant deaths under 1 year..... | nil. |
| Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 total live births..... | nil. |
| " " " " " Legitimate..... | nil. |
| " " " " " Illegitimate..... | nil. |
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)..... | nil. |
| Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)..... | nil. |
| Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)..... | nil. |
| Maternal Deaths (including abortion)..... | nil. |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births..... | nil. |

Deaths.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Residents.....Males 10. | Females 20. | Total.....30. |
| Non-residents...Males 5. | Females 2. | Total..... 5. |

and of those deaths:

Deaths from:

| | |
|--|------|
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach..... | 1 |
| " " breast..... | Nil. |
| Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms..... | 7 |
| Coronary Disease..... | 2 |
| Hypertension with heart disease..... | 2 |
| Other heart disease..... | 8 |
| Other circulatory disease..... | 6 |
| Pneumonia..... | 2 |
| Bronchitis..... | 4 |
| Senility..... | 3 |

35

Notifiable Diseases.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Measles..... | 2 |
| Tuberculosis..... | 2 |
| Whooping Cough..... | 4 |
| Pneumonia..... | 3 |

9

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

The Chest Clinic for this area is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple.

Tuberculosis.

Treatment for tuberculosis is carried out at the Hawley Sanatorium in the Borough of Barnstaple and at Hawkmoor Sanatorium near Bovey Tracey.

Veneral Disease.

There were no reports of Venereal Disease. The nearest centre for treatment is at Barnstaple North Devon Infirmary and any cases that occur in this Urban District go direct to Barnstaple.

Ambulance Service.

Responsibility for the provision of an Ambulance Service rests with the County Council and its Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided by the Lynton St. John Ambulance Association.

The Staff consists of one part-time Member, 4 men Volunteers and 10 Volunteer Nurses. The Ambulance is garaged at Cross Street, Lynton. The Hospital Car Service is available on application by the Doctors to the Hospital.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

The nearest Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases is the Kingsley Hospital at Bideford.

Maternity.

There are two beds for maternity cases at the Lynton & District Cottage Hospital, with a fully qualified staff available. At the North Devon Infirmary there is an additional Ward available for cases of difficulty. In the past three years and again this year the Lynton Hospital has been obliged to close during September to November and has been open only for emergencies; this has been due to a shortage of nursing staff. A solution to this problem has not yet been found and there is a likelihood of a temporary closure occurring every year unless more staff becomes available. All Maternity Cases normally dealt with at Lynton are taken 20 miles to Barnstaple Infirmary during any period when the Lynton Hospital is closed.

Ane-Natal and Post Natal Clinics.

Ane-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics are conducted at the Lynton Cottage Hospital by each General Practitioner in co-operation with the Hospital Staff.

Home Help Scheme.

The Home Nursing Service is operated by one District Nurse in conjunction with Nursing and Midwifery duties. In addition, assistance in the home is given by one Home Help.

Child Welfare.

The Infant Welfare Centre is held at the Jubilee Hall, Burvill Street, Lynton, and is open on the first and Third Wednesdays in the month, with a County Council Welfare Worker in attendance.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination and Immunisation are carried out by the General Practitioners of the area and also at the Welfare Centre and the School Clinics.

Laboratory Facilities.

Facilities are available for Bacteriological examinations of all kinds at the Public Health Laboratory, Exeter.

Water Supply.

The following information regarding the mains water supply from the North Devon Water Board's Works at Dean Steep, Lynton, has been kindly given by the Chief Engineer (North).

The Supply has been entirely satisfactory both in quality and quantity and no restrictions have had to be imposed. Bacteriological samples are taken weekly from various consumers taps in the area of the supply and of the 90 samples taken all proved satisfactory and equivalent to a class one piped supply. Samples for bacteriological examination are not normally taken of the raw water, as this is known to vary from day to day, according to rainfall. The water is soft in character and treated with modern plant to reduce any corrosive tendencies. A sample taken from the raw water inlet and submitted for chemical analysis is reported on by The Counties Public Health Laboratories as follows:- "This sample is only slightly opalescent in appearance. It is neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is soft in character and has a correspondingly low content of mineral and saline constituents. Its organic quality is of a high standard. These results indicate suitability for treatment for public supply purposes".

A sample submitted after treatment also is reported on by The Counties Public Health Laboratories as follows:- "This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, slightly alkaline in reaction and free from metals. The water is very soft in character and has a correspondingly low contents of mineral and saline constituents. Its organic quality is of a high standard. These results indicate a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, has been effectively treated and is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes".

The supply is not plumbo-solvent and no action is necessary with regard to contamination.

Standpipes from Public Mains are not used in Lynton, supplies being taken direct to all properties. The number of dwellinghouses supplied direct from public mains is 506 and the estimated population supplied 1,435.

8 samples from private supplies in the outlying district have been taken and 7 samples were equivalent to a class one piped supply and one sample showed slight contamination.

SEWERAGE.

The main sewerage systems in Lynton and Lynmouth operated very satisfactory without any complaints and advantage was taken of the slight saving in expenditure to provide additional access manholes in the Queen Street area.

The Council have been unable to proceed with a sewerage system for Barbrook Village and I should again like to stress the need that this scheme should proceed as soon as possible.

Rainfall.

The following figures of rainfall were recorded on the Manor Grounds at Lynmouth during 1961:-

| | | |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| January..... | 6.57 | inches. |
| February..... | 2.79 | " |
| March..... | .40 | " |
| April..... | 5.17 | " |
| May..... | 1.74 | " |
| June..... | 1.74 | " |
| July..... | 2.05 | " |
| August..... | 3.43 | " |
| September..... | 3.19 | " |
| October..... | 6.59 | " |
| November..... | 2.44 | " |
| December..... | 4.26 | " |
| | 40.37 | " |

Swimming Pool.

Only one swimming pool exists in the Urban District and is under the control of the local authority. The Pool is sited on the Esplanade foreshore, Lynmouth, and is covered completely by each tide.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of refuse both from household and trade premises was made weekly during the Winter months and twice-weekly collections, with thrice-weekly collections from large houses and hotels, during the holiday period. Farm houses and dwellings in outlying areas receive, by agreement, twice-yearly collections.

Rodent Control.

The Refuse Tip was frequently treated, as in previous years, with Warfarin and the results continue to be satisfactory.

The number of complaints from private dwellings were again fewer this year but the number of inspections increased. All treatments and inspections were carried out by the Council's part-time Rodent Operator.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Premises in the District:-

| Type. | No. |
|--|-----|
| Bakehouses..... | 1 |
| Butcher's Shops..... | 4 |
| Cafes and Restaurants..... | 18 |
| Confectioners..... | 9 |
| Dairies..... | 1 |
| Grocer's Shops..... | 8 |
| Greengrocers..... | 4 |
| Licensed Premises..... | 10 |
| Hotels and BoardingHouses (unlicensed)... | 46 |
| Fish and Chip Shops..... | 1 |

23 Food Premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale of Ice Cream.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/60.

38 Visits were paid to Food Premises during the year and there has been a marked improvement in the standards of the premises visited. No formal action has been necessary.

Meat Inspection.

The private slaughterhouse in Lynton did not operate during 1961, all Butchers obtaining their meat from outside the Urban District.

The following foodstuffs were condemned and disposed of by the Council at their Refuse Tip:-

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Tinned Fruit..... | 1 tin |
| Tinned Meat..... | 15 tins. |
| Meat..... | 142 lbs. |
| Cheese..... | 5. lbs. |

Milk Supply.

Four purveyors of milk are registered as distributors in the district.

Petroleum.

The number of licensed premises in the year was 9.

Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises. | No. on Register. | Number of Inspections. | Written notices. | Occupiers Prosecuted. |
|---|------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| (ii) Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. | 5 | 7 | Nil | Nil |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises). | 1 | 1 | Nil | Nil |
| Total | 6 | 8 | Nil | Nil |

Cases in which defects were found

| Particulars. | Number of cases in which defects were found. | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. | | |
|--|--|-----------|--|------|-----------|
| | Found. | Remedied. | Referred to H.M. By Inspectr: H.M. | H.M. | Inspectr: |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| (a) Insufficient | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective. | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Other offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Out-work) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Total | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

HOUSING.

(Article 31 of the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932).

(a) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation..... 1

(b) Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of information by the Local Authority..... 1

(c) Number of representations made to Local Authority with a view to (1) the service of notices requiring execution of works or (2) the making of Demolition or Closing Orders..... Nil

(d) Number of notices served requiring the execution of works..... Nil

(e) Number of Demolition Orders made..... Nil

(f) Number of houses in respect of which an Undertaking was accepted..... Nil

(g) Number of houses demolished..... Nil

I have the honour to be
Mrs. Slater, Mrs. Blackhurst and
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

M.P. NIGHTINGALE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.